LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving digital content and metadata associated with the digital content;

receiving publication information comprising distribution information that identifies one or more content distributors selected to distribute the digital content;

storing the digital content at a first computing system; and

sending the metadata and the publication information to a second computing system for storage separately from the first computing system.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving digital content includes receiving digital content from a digital content management (DCM) system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving publication information includes receiving publication information using a graphical user interface (GUI).

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein publication information further comprises at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein producing protected digital content includes encrypting the digital content and storing the encrypted digital content into a file transfer protocol (FTP) directory such that the digital content is accessible over a network.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein producing protected digital content includes encrypting the digital content and storing the encrypted digital content into a real server transfer protocol (RSTP) directory such that the digital content is capable of being streamed over a network.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 further comprising producing thumbnail information associated with the digital content and storing the thumbnail information into a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) directory such that the thumbnail information is accessible over a network.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein producing protected digital content includes controlling access to the digital content over a network.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein controlling access includes using an XrML (eXtensible Rights Markup Language) license.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein sending includes sending a rights-label to a digital content rights management system (DRM), wherein the rights-label includes metadata and publication information associated with the digital content.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising notifying a digital content distributor of the availability of the metadata and publication information associated with the digital content, the content distributor being one of the identified content distributors.

14. (Previously Presented) A digital content publication apparatus comprising:

a memory unit; and

a processor configured to:

receive digital content and metadata associated with digital content,

receive publication information comprising distribution information that identifies one or more content distributors selected to distribute the digital content,

store the digital content at a first computing system; and

send the metadata and the publication information to a second computing system for storage separately from the first computing system.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to receive digital content from a digital content management (DCM) system.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to receive publication information using a graphical user interface (GUI).

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein publication information further comprises at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to encrypt the digital content and store the encrypted digital content into a file transfer protocol (FTP) directory such that the digital content is accessible over a network.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to encrypt the digital content and store the encrypted digital content into a real server transfer protocol (RSTP) directory such that the digital content is capable of being streamed over a network.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to produce thumbnail information associated with the digital content and store the thumbnail information into a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) directory such that the thumbnail information is accessible over a network.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to control access to the digital content over a network.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the control access includes using an XrML (eXtensible Rights Markup Language) license.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to send includes sending a rights-label to a digital content rights management (DRM) system, wherein the rights-label includes metadata and publication information associated with the digital content.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is further configured to notify a digital content distributor of the availability of the metadata and publication information associated with the digital content, the digital content distributor being one of the identified content distributors.

27. (Previously Presented) An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

receive digital content and metadata associated with the digital content;

receive publication information comprising distribution information that identifies one or more content distributors selected to distribute the digital content;

store the digital content at a first computing system; and

send the metadata and the publication information to a second computing system for storage separately from the first computing system.

28. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 53 further comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content wherein the digital content is received from a digital content management (DCM) system.

29. (Original) The article of claim 27 further comprising instructions for causing the computer to receive publication information using a graphical user interface (GUI).

30. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 53 comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content, wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

31. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 53 comprising instructions for causing the computer to protect the digital content, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

32. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 53 comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content, wherein the publication information includes at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

33. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 53 comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content including instructions to encrypt the digital content and store the encrypted digital content into a file transfer protocol (FTP) directory such that the digital content is accessible over a network.

34. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 53 comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content including instructions to encrypt the digital content and store the encrypted digital content into a real server transfer protocol (RSTP) directory such that the digital content is capable of being streamed over a network.

35. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 53 comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content including instructions to produce thumbnail information associated with the digital content and to store the thumbnail information into a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) directory such that the thumbnail information is accessible over a network.

36. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 53 comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content including instructions to control access to the digital content over a network.

37. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 36 comprising instructions for causing the computer to control access includes instructions for controlling access using an XrML (eXtensible Rights Markup Language) license.

38. (Original) The article of claim 27 further comprising instructions for causing the computer to send a rights-label to a digital content rights management (DRM) system, wherein the rights-label includes metadata and publication information associated with the digital content.

39. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27 further comprising instructions for causing the computer to notify a digital content distributor of the availability of the metadata and publication information associated with the digital content, the digital content distributor being one of the identified content distributors.

40. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a digital content publication (DCP) computer configured to receive digital content and metadata associated with the digital content from a digital content management (DCM) computer, receive publication information, store the digital content at the DCP computer, and send the metadata and the publication information to a digital right management computer for storage separate from the DCP computer; and

a digital rights management (DRM) computer configured to receive the metadata and the publication information from the DCP computer, and store the metadata and the publication information, the publication information comprising distribution information that identifies one or more content distributors selected to distribute the digital content.

41-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the publication information further comprises at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

45-49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising protecting the received digital content to generate protected digital content.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the received digital content is protected to generate protected digital content.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein the protected digital content is stored.

53. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27 comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content.

54. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for distribution of digital content, the method comprising:

storing metadata for digital content in association with publication information for the digital content, the publication information identifying one or more content distributors selected to distribute the digital content, the metadata being stored separately from the digital content; and

enabling secure distribution of the content according to the stored publication information.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein enabling secure distribution comprises:

generating a protected version of the digital content;

using the metadata and the publication information to control access to the protected version of digital content.